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PRESS RELEASE

JAMES WILLIAM MURRAY

Turn Your Face Towards My Face

18 December 2020 – 7 February 2021

Stephane Simoens Contemporary Fine Art is pleased to announce the second solo exhibition with the gallery by James William Murray.

Concepts of mediated touch and indexical trace are central to the artist's work. These concerns stem from his early photographic practice, which quickly expanded into painting, drawing, and sculpture.

Murray's work is characterised by a sensual handling of materials, which troubles the minimalist vernacular that he references. Indeed, his works evoke a warmth that speaks of an intimate and nurturing relationship to studio practice. He has stated: 'desire to make works of art is the desire to establish privileged points of contact with the material world, to leave a mark that says: I lived, and loved, and worked in a particular way.'

The bodies of work presented in *TURN YOUR FACE TOWARDS MY FACE* activate questions of 'sameness and difference' through subtle variations and departures from central motifs that reveal themselves slowly. This approach pulls focus on the intrinsic qualities of his materials, which include: brass; cotton; gold; graphite; jute; linen; oak; steel...

James William Murray (UK °1988) lives and works in Brighton, England. Recent exhibitions include: *Material Curing* (group exhibition) Thameside Studios Gallery, London UK 2021; *James William Murray: Realia* (solo exhibition) Brighton Centre For Contemporary Arts, Brighton UK 2021; *Too Young To Fruit*, (group exhibition), Wevet Projects, Brighton UK 2021; *Object Q / Pursuit of Happiness* (duo exhibition with Garth Gratrix), Gallery DODO Brighton UK 2021, supported by Arts Council England; *Many Splendored Things* (duo exhibition with Garth Gratrix), Abingdon Studios, Blackpool UK 2021, supported by Arts Council England; *New Ideal* (group exhibition), Rule Gallery Denver CO USA 2021.